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54 **Process for alpha-C-alkylation of the 8-acyl group of mevinolin and analogs thereof.**

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56 References cited:
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EP-A- 0 137 444
EP-A- 0 137 445
US-A- 4 450 171

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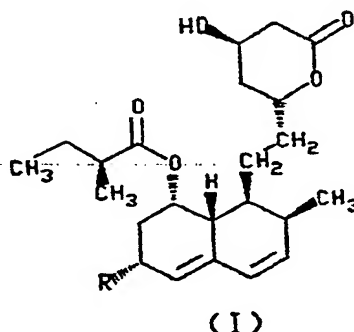
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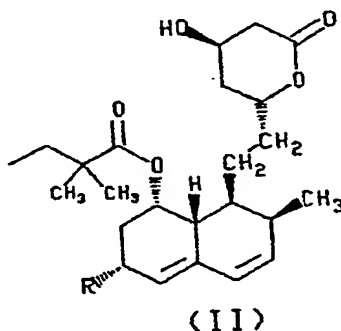
Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Compounds of structure (I) are known and known to have HMG-CoA reductase inhibitory properties.



They are the natural fermentation products mevinolin ($R=CH_3$, U.S. Pat. No. 4,231,938) and compactin ($R=H$, U.S. Pat. No. 3,983,140) and derivatives thereof all with the natural 2-methylbutyrate side chain. Compounds of structure (II) with the 2,2 dimethylbutyrate side chain and $R=CH_3$ are known to be more active inhibitors of HMG-CoA reductase than their 2-methylbutyrate analogs.



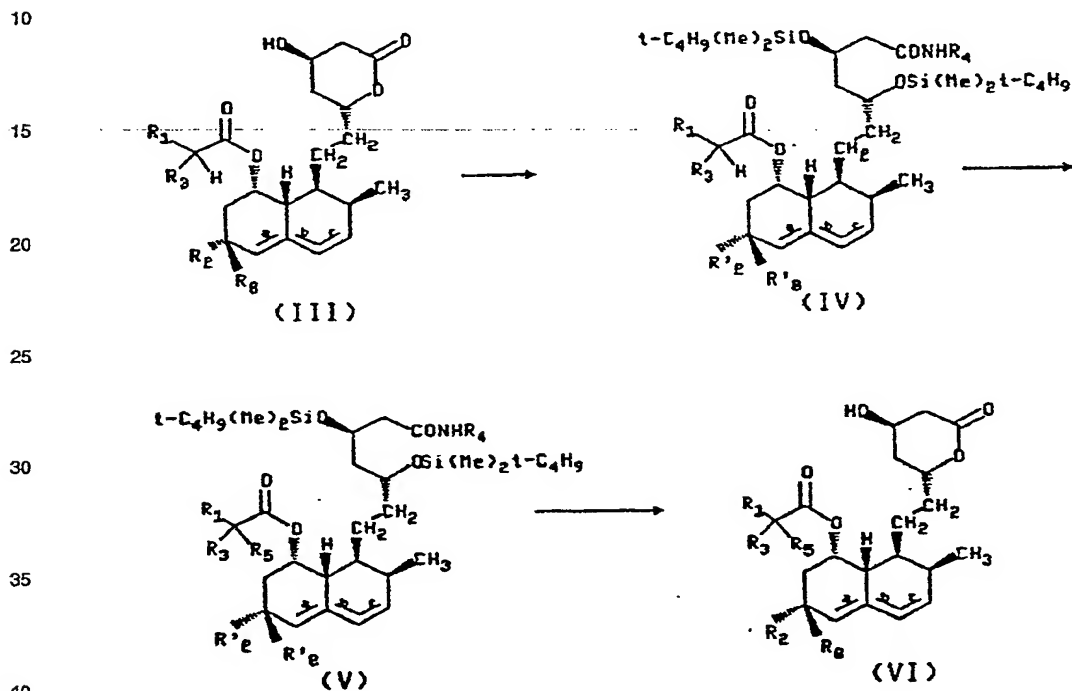
Some compounds of structure (II) and processes for their preparation are disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,444,784 and EPO published application 33538. However the process disclosed therein involves 4 distinct chemical steps: (1) de-esterification of the 2-methylbutyrate side chain; (2) protection of the 4-hydroxy of the pyranone ring; (3) re-esterification to form the desired 2,2 dimethylbutyrate; and (4) de-protection of the 4-hydroxy group. This route was lengthy and gave low overall yields.

U.S. Patent No. 4,582,915 ("915") disclosed a novel route to the dimethylbutyrate side chain via direct alkylation of the α -carbon of the naturally available methylbutyrate side chain using a metal alkyl amide and a methyl halide. However this process has been found to have certain disadvantages in the commercial manufacture of a pharmaceutical. In order to obtain a high conversion of starting material, it was necessary to use a repeat addition of the amide base and methyl halide. This of course exacts a yield penalty and is time-consuming. Furthermore a selective hydrolysis is still necessary to reduce the level of unmethylated starting material to less than 0.7%. This step is time consuming since the hydrolysis of unconverted starting material is very slow and normally requires 20 hours. The overall yield for this process is moderate where the starting material is mevinolin. In addition to unconverted starting material a number of other impurities are generated during the methylation and hydrolysis steps. These include, when the starting material is mevinolin, des-butyrate mevinolin and bis-methylated compounds wherein the alpha lactone carbon is methylated in addition to that on the 8'-C-ester side chain, and a methyl ether wherein the ring oxygen of the lactone now in the open form has been methylated. The purity of the final product isolated from the overall process is close to borderline for use as a human health-care product.

A process having a less pronounced impurity spectrum would ensure less chance of batch-to-batch variations causing problems in obtaining acceptable final drug purity without resorting to wasteful repeated recrystallizations.

5 SUMMARY OF INVENTION

This invention is a novel process, for alkylating the α -position of an acyl moiety, which may be depicted as:

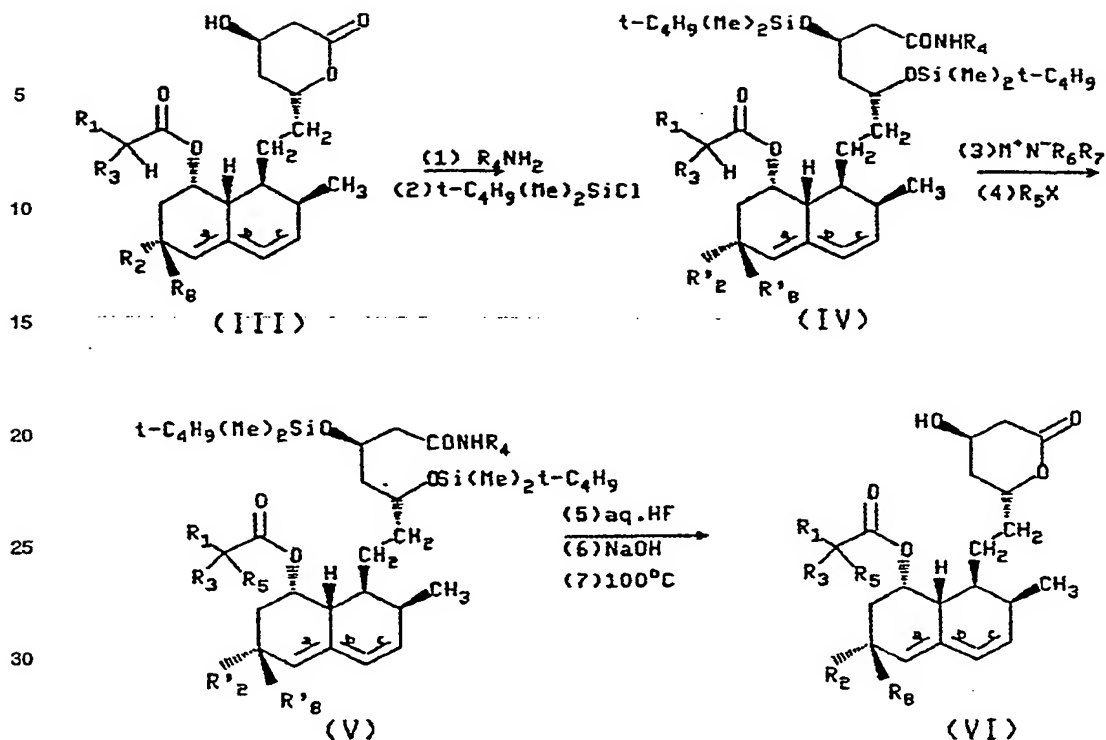


In particular the process can be used to methylate mevinolin to produce a product which is a more re-active inhibitor of HMG-CoA reductase than mevinolin itself. The reaction proceeds using only a single charge of base and methyl halide to form product in a pharmaceutically acceptable purity.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a novel process for alkylating the alpha carbon of the 8'-C-ester side chain of mevinolin and analogs thereof with only a single charge of base and alkyl halide to form a product in substantially higher yield and most importantly at a higher state of purity than a similar product by the "915" route.

The process of the instant invention may be represented by the sequence:



wherein

R₁ is C₁₋₅ alkyl;

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of H, CH₃, OH or CH₂OH;

R₃ is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl;

R₄ is C₃₋₅ alkyl;

R'₂ is identical to R₂ except that where R₂ is OH or CH₂OH, R'₂ is OSi(Me)₂t-C₄H₉ or CH₂OSi(Me)₂t-C₄H₉;

R₅ is C₁₋₃ alkyl;

R₆ and R₇ are independently

(i) C₁₋₃ alkyl, or

(ii) R₆ and R₇ joined together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 5 or 6 membered heterocycle such as pyrrolidine or piperidine;

R₈ is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, or CH₂OH; provided that at least one of R₂ or

R₈ is H;

R'₈ is identical to R₈ except that where R₈ is OH or CH₂OH, R'₈ is OSi(Me)₂t-C₄H₉ or CH₂OSi(Me)₂t-C₄H₉;

X is chloro, bromo or iodo;

M⁺ is a cation derived from lithium, sodium or potassium; and

a, b and c each represent single bonds or one of a, b and c represents a double bond or both a and c represent double bonds. Except where specifically defined to the contrary, the term alkyl includes both the straight-chain and branched chain species of the term.

One embodiment of the present invention is the preparation of compounds of structure (V) wherein R₁ is ethyl, R₃ is methyl and R₅ is methyl.

In a class of this embodiment are those compounds wherein R'₂ is H, CH₃ or CH₂OSi(Me)₂t-C₄H₉. In one subclass are those compounds wherein a and c both represent double bonds. Exemplifying this subclass are the compounds wherein:

R₁ = ethyl, R₃ = methyl, R₄ = n-butyl, R₅ = methyl and

- a. $R'_2 = CH_3$ and $R'_8 = H$; or
 b. $R'_2 = CH_2OSi(Me)_2C_4H_9$ and $R'_8 = H$; or
 c. $R'_2 = H$ and $R'_8 = CH_2OSi(Me)_2C_4H_9$.

5 In a second subclass are those compounds wherein a, b and c are all single bonds. Exemplifying this subclass are the compounds wherein:

$R_1 =$ ethyl, $R_3 =$ methyl, $R_4 =$ n-butyl, $R_5 =$ methyl, and

- a. $R'_2 = CH_3$ and $R'_8 = H$; or
 b. $R'_2 = CH_2OSi(Me)_2C_4H_9$ and $R'_8 = H$; or
 10 c. $R'_2 = H$ and $R'_8 = CH_2OSi(Me)_2C_4H_9$.

A second embodiment of the present invention is the preparation of compounds of structure (VI) wherein R_1 is ethyl, R_3 is methyl and R_5 is methyl.

15 In a class of this embodiment are those compounds wherein R_2 is CH_3 or CH_2OH . In one subclass are those compounds wherein a and c both represent double bonds. Exemplifying this subclass are the compounds:

- (1) 6R-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S),6(R)-dimethyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydronaphthyl-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one;
 20 (2) 6R-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S)-methyl-6(R)-hydroxymethyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydronaphthyl-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one.

In a second subclass are those compounds wherein a, b and c are all single bonds. Exemplifying this subclass are the compounds:

- (1) 6(R)-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S),6(S)-dimethyl-1,2,3,4,4a(S),5,6,7,8,8a(S)-decahydronaphthyl-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one;
 25 (2) 6R-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S)-methyl-6(R)-hydroxymethyl-1,2,3,4,4a(S),5,6,7,8,8a(S)-decahydronaphthyl-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one.
 30

The novel process of the instant invention comprises selective C-alkylation at the α -position of the 8' -acyl side chain of the polyhydronaphthyl moiety of structure (III). The C-alkylation occurs in the presence of the β -hydroxy-valerolactone masked as a alkylamide-bis(tert-butyldimethylsilyl) ether. Good yields are obtained with a single charge of base and alkyl halide. After C-alkylation the alkylamide is cleanly converted to the valerolactone without affecting the C-alkylated acyl side chain. The entire process of protection, C-alkylation and removal of protecting groups is carried out in a single vessel.

The starting lactone is converted into an amide by reaction with an alkylamine, preferably n-butylamine, under an inert atmosphere such as nitrogen. The hydroxyl groups are protected with tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride or a like reagent, and a base such as imidazole.

40 The alkali metal amide is formed by combining a hydrocarbon solution of a n-butyl-alkali metal, wherein the alkali metal is lithium, sodium, or potassium, preferably lithium, with a dried solution of R_6R_7NH wherein R_6R_7NH is diethylamine, dimethylamine, diisopropylamine or pyrrolidine, preferably pyrrolidine in an ethereal solvent such as tetrahydrofuran, diethyl ether, 1,2 dimethoxyethane preferably tetrahydrofuran at a temperature of about -20°C.

45 The solution of hydroxyl-protected alkyl amide previously formed is cooled to about -35°C, and the solution of alkali metal amide added at such a rate so as to maintain the temperature below -30°C. The solution is aged at about -35°C for approximately 2 hours. A dried alkyl halide, preferably methyl chloride, methyl bromide or methyl iodide, most preferably methyl iodide, is added to the mixture in one portion. The mixture is recooled to about -30°C for approximately 1 hour after the alkyl halide addition, then it is warmed to about -10°C over a period of about 20 minutes, and aged for approximately 20 minutes at about -10°C. The reaction mixture is quenched with an excess of water, and extracted with a hydrocarbon solvent such as cyclohexane or the like.

50 The tert-butyldimethylsilyl protecting groups are removed by treatment with an acid such as aqueous hydrofluoric acid. Aqueous sodium hydroxide is added to bring the solution pH to exactly 6.5 while not allowing the temperature to rise above 10°C.

55 The above solution is charged with 2.0 N NaOH and brought to reflux for 1 to 6 hours, preferably 3 hours. The mixture is cooled to 25°C, diluted with water and the solvent distilled under vacuum. The mixture is cooled to about 10°C and carefully acidified with 3.0 N HCl to pH 7.0. Ethyl acetate is added and the layers separated. The ethyl acetate layer is washed with water. Methanol is added and the mixture warmed to about 20°C as aqueous NH_3 is added to crystallize out the NH_4 salt of the lactone over a period of about 15 minutes. Once crystallization is underway the mixture is warmed to 35 to 50°C for 5 to 60 minutes preferably 45°C for 15 minutes and then cooled to +10 to -20°C for 0.5 to 12 hours, preferably -10°C for 2.5 hours. The ammonium salt is washed with ethyl acetate/ methanol and dried in vacuo with a nitrogen purge.
 65

The crude ammonium salt is suspended in a hydrocarbon solvent such as toluene and heated at 90 to 110°C for 2 to 12 hours, preferably 100°C for 3.5 hours, under a purge of nitrogen. The mixture is cooled to 25°C filtered and the filtrate concentrated in vacuo maintaining the internal temperature below 40°C. A hydrocarbon solvent such as cyclohexane is added and the mixture heated at reflux for 0.1 to 1 hour, preferably 0.25 hour then cooled for 1 to 12 hours at 25 to 10°C, preferably 2 hours at 10-15°C. The product lactone is filtered and washed with a cold hydrocarbon solvent such as cyclohexane, then dried in vacuo to give a product of high purity.

The above obtained product is recrystallized from aqueous methanol to yield a product of pharmaceutically acceptable purity as determined by HPLC.

The starting material Lovastatin, wherein R_1 = ethyl, R_2 = CH_3 , R_3 = CH_3 and \underline{a} and \underline{c} are double bonds, is readily available or may be prepared according to the fermentation procedures disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,231,938. Hydrogenation derivatives of Lovastatin are prepared following the procedures outlined in U.S. Patent 4,444,784. The starting material compactin wherein R_2 = ethyl, R_2 = H and R_3 = CH_3 and \underline{a} and \underline{c} are double bonds is prepared according to the fermentation procedure outlined in U.S. Patent 4,231,938. Starting materials wherein R_2 = CH_2OH are prepared following the procedure outlined in co-pending U.S. Patent application S.N. 048136, filed May 15, 1987. Those compounds wherein R_2 or R_8 is OH are prepared following the procedures in U.S. Patents 4,537,859 and 4,517,373.

The following Examples illustrate the present invention and as such are not to be considered as limiting the invention set forth in the claims appended hereto.

EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of 6(R)-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S),6(R)-dimethyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydro-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one

(1a) 3,5-bis(tert-butyldimethylsilyl) Lovastatinbutylamide (A compound of formula (IV) wherein R_1 = ethyl, R'_2 = methyl, R_3 = methyl, R_4 = n-butyl, R'_8 = H and \underline{a} and \underline{c} are double bonds.) (All manipulations are carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere).

Lovastatin (53.0 g, 0.128 mol) was dissolved in n-butylamine (210 mL, 2.12 mol) at 25°C and heated to a gentle reflux at 80°C. After 1 hour, the solution was cooled to 25°C, the pressure reduced to 120 mm/Hg and the butylamine distilled at a bath temperature of 60°C. The concentrated solution was cooled to 25°C and dimethylformamide (263 mL, sieve-dried, K.F. = 43) was charged (pot volume = 373 mL). The pressure was again reduced to 120 mm/Hg and the mixture heated at 110°C (bath temperature) for 45 minutes, while collecting 17 mL of distillate. The mixture was then cooled to 25°C and imidazole (19.59 g, 0.288 mol) and then tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (44.4 g, 0.288 mol) were added. The mixture was then heated at 60°C for 8-14 hours until the silylation had gone to completion. The mixture was cooled to 12°C, and anhydrous methanol (5.8 mL, 0.143 mol) added and the mixture aged at 10-15°C for 0.5 hour. The mixture was then partitioned with cyclohexane (1.5 l) and distilled water (750 mL) and vigorously agitated. The layers were separated and the upper (cyclohexane) layer washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (750 mL) and distilled water (750 mL).

The cyclohexane layer was distilled at ambient pressure. After 1320 mL of distillate was collected (pot volume = 580 mL), the solution was diluted with sieve-dried THF (600 mL) and then 110 mL of distillate was collected while distilling the mixture at ambient pressure. The solution was then cooled to 25°C for use in the next step.

(1b) 3,5-bis(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)-Synvinolin-butylamide (A compound of formula (V) wherein R_1 = ethyl, R'_2 = methyl, R_3 = methyl, R_4 = n-butyl, R'_8 = H and \underline{a} and \underline{c} are double bonds.)

A solution of sieve dried pyrrolidine (25.13 mL) and sieve dried THF (192 mL) was cooled to -18°C. A solution of n-butyllithium in hexane (1.65 M, 182.5 mL, 0.301 mol) was added at such a rate as to keep the temperature below -10°C (approx. 15 minutes). After the addition was complete, the mixture was aged at -20°C for 15 minutes.

The solution of 3,5-bis(tert-butyldimethylsilyl) Lovastatin butylamide in THF/cyclohexane was cooled to -35°C. The solution of lithium pyrrolidide at -20°C was then added to the rapidly agitated mixture at such a rate as to maintain the temperature below -30°C at all times during the addition. The solution was then aged at -35°C for 2 hours. Sieve dried methyl iodide was added (12.2 mL, 0.196 mol) to the mixture in one portion. The mixture was then recooled to -30°C and aged for 1 hour after the methyl iodide addition, then it was warmed to -10°C over a period of 23 minutes and aged for 20 minutes at -10°C.

The mixture was quenched with water (550 mL) and rapidly agitated for 10 minutes. The phases were separated and the lower (aqueous) phase was reextracted with cyclohexane (465 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with 1N HCl (500 mL) and 10% aqueous sodium bisulfite (NaHSO_3 , 500 mL). The combined organic phase was concentrated at 120 mm/Hg to a volume of 300 mL. This concentrated solution was used directly in the next step.

(1c) Synvinolin-butylamide

The concentrated solution from the previous step was diluted with acetonitrile (600 mL) and the mixture again concentrated at 120 mm/Hg to a volume of 300 mL. The mixture was cooled to 25°C and acetonitrile (300 mL) was charged. The resulting solution was cooled to +7°C. Hydrofluoric acid (79 mL, 50% aqueous solution) was charged. The mixture was then warmed to 25°C over a period of 1 hour. The mixture was aged at 25° for 1.5 hour, then cooled to +5°C. Aqueous sodium hydroxide (NaOH, 3N) was added carefully to the rapidly agitated mixture to bring the pH of the solution to exactly 6.5. At no time during the caustic addition was the temperature allowed to rise above +10°C. The layers were separated, and the lower (aqueous) phase was back extracted with 788 mL of (THF/cyclohexane) solution (563 mL THF/225 mL cyclohexane). The THF/cyclohexane extract was combined with the initial acetonitrile layer and the combined extracts were concentrated at 120 mm/Hg to a volume of 290 mL. Ethanol (anhydrous, 1000 mL) was charged and the volume was reduced to 788 mL by distillation at 120 mm/Hg. This solution was used directly in the next step.

(1d) Ammonium salt of Synvinolin

To the ethanol solution of Synvinolin-butylamide from the previous step at 25°C was charged, 2N sodium hydroxide (NaOH, 164 mL) and the resulting solution brought to a gentle reflux (81°C). After 3 hours the mixture was cooled to 25°C and diluted with 789 mL of distilled water. The pressure was reduced to 120 mm/Hg and ethanol was distilled. The pot volume was reduced to 788 mL as 840 mL of distillate was collected. The mixture was cooled to +11°C and carefully acidified with 3.0 N HCl to pH = 7.0. Ethyl acetate (925 mL) was added and the aqueous phase further acidified to pH = 2.5. The mixture was rapidly agitated for 5-10 minutes and the layers were separated. The lower (aqueous) phase was reextracted with ethyl acetate (463 mL) and combined with the first ethyl acetate layer. The combined ethyl acetate layers were washed with water (360 mL). Methanol (anhydrous, 533 mL) was added and the mixture warmed to +20°C as 28% aqueous NH₄OH (18.0 mL) was added over a 15 minute period. Once crystallization was underway, the mixture was warmed to 45°C, aged for 15 minutes, then cooled to -10°C over a 2.5 hour period. After a 1 hour age, the product was filtered and washed with 3:1 ethyl acetate/methanol (338 mL EtOAc/112 mL MeOH, -10°C). The product was dried in vacuo with a nitrogen purge at 30-35°C to give the titled compound of step (1d).

(1e) 6(R)-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S),6(R)-dimethyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydro-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one Lactonization

The crude ammonium salt of step 1(d) (25.0 g, 52.35 mmole) was suspended in toluene (500 mL) and heated at 100°C under a constant sweep of nitrogen for 3.5 hours.

The solution was cooled to 25°C and Darco KB (activated charcoal) (1.25 g) was added. The mixture was agitated at 25°C for 0.5 hour filtered through SuperCel (diatomaceous earth) and the filtrate concentrated in vacuo to a volume of 50 mL maintaining an internal temperature of <40°C. Cyclohexane (300 mL) was added and the mixture heated at reflux for 0.25 hour then cooled over 2 hours to 10-15°C and aged for 1 hour. The product was filtered and washed with cold cyclohexane (115 mL) then dried in vacuo at 30-35°C to give the desired compound as a crystalline solid.

Recrystallization

The lactonized product (20.0 g) was dissolved in methanol (240 mL) at 25°C under N₂ then filtered through a pad of Ecosorb-C (homogenous mixture of activated carbon on a fibrous support) (15 g) over 0.25 hour. The Ecosorb-C was rinsed with additional methanol (40 mL). The combined filtrate was heated to 35°C and water (90 mL) was added over 0.25 hour. The mixture was cooled gradually at a rate of 5°C/0.25 hour until crystallization initiated.

The mixture was aged for 0.5 hour then reheated to 40°C and the remaining water (190 mL) slowly added over 1 hour. The mixture was cooled to 15°C over 1.5 hour, aged for 1 hour, filtered and the product washed with methanol:H₂O (1:1 v/v, 90 mL). The product was dried in vacuo at 30-35°C with a nitrogen purge to give the titled compound in pharmaceutically acceptable purity as white elongated rods. The titled compound was identified by HPLC.

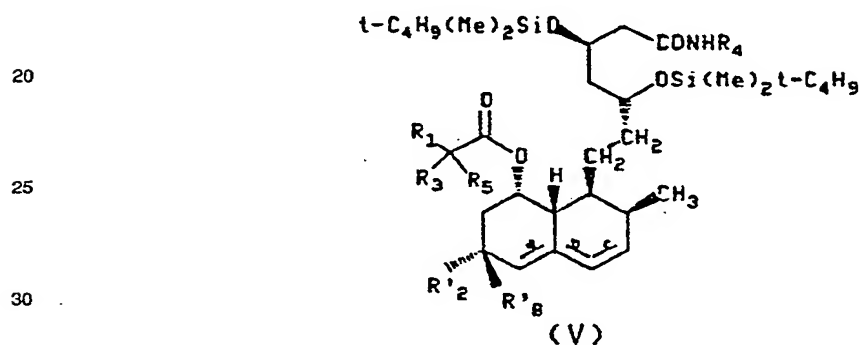
EXAMPLES 2-4

Following the procedure substantially as described in Example 1 but substituting for the Lovastatin used as starting material therein, approximately equimolar amounts of the compounds of structure (III) as described below there are prepared the 2,2-dimethylbutyrate products as listed below

		R_1	R_2	R_3	a	b	c	R_5
5	Example 2	CH_3CH_2	CH_3	CH_3	--	--	--	CH_3
	Example 3	CH_3CH_2	CH_2OH	CH_3	ab	--	db	CH_3
10	Example 4	CH_3CH_2	CH_2OH	CH_3	--	--	--	CH_3

Claims

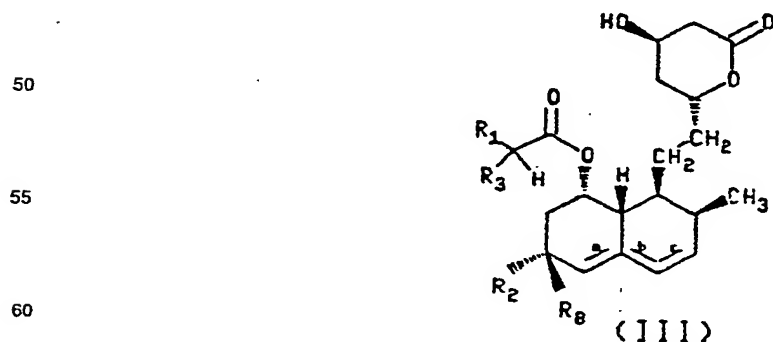
15 I. A process for the preparation of a compound of structural formula (V):



wherein:

- 35 R_1 is C_{1-5} alkyl;
 R_2 is selected from the group consisting of H, CH_3 , $OSi(Me)_2t-C_4H_9$ or $CH_2OSi(Me)_2t-C_4H_9$;
 R_3 is H or C_{1-3} alkyl;
 R_4 is C_{3-5} alkyl;
 R_5 is C_{1-3} alkyl; and
40 R_8 is selected from the group consisting of H or $OSi(Me)_2t-C_4H_9$ or $CH_2OSi(Me)_2t-C_4H_9$; provided that at least one of R_2 or R_8 is H;
a, b and c each represent single bonds or one of a, b and c represents a double bond or both a and c represent double bonds;
which comprises:

45 (A) treatment under an inert atmosphere of a compound of structural formula (III):



wherein

- 65 R_2 is selected from the group consisting of H, CH_3 , $-OH$, or $-CH_2OH$;
 R_8 is selected from the group consisting of H or CH_2OH ; provided that at least one of R_2 or R_8 is H;

with an alkyl amine, R_4NH_2 , followed by hydroxyl protection with tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride and imidazole; then

(B) treatment with an alkali metal amide of formula

$M^+N^-R_6R_7$;

wherein M^+ is a cation derived from sodium potassium or lithium, and

R_6 and R_7 are independently C_{1-3} alkyl, or

R_6 and R_7 joined together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring; followed by contact with R_5X , wherein X is chloro, bromo or iodo.

2. The process of Claim 1 wherein Step (B) is conducted in an ethereal solvent, R_5 is methyl and the contact with R_5X is at a temperature of -30 to $-10^\circ C$.

3. The process of Claim 2 wherein the ethereal solvent is tetrahydrofuran, the alkyl amine is butylamine, the alkali metal amide is lithium pyrrolidide; R_1 is ethyl, R_3 is methyl; and R'_2 is H, CH_3 or $CH_2OSi(Me)_2C_4H_9$; R'_8 is H, or $CH_2OSi(Me)_2C_4H_9$; provided that at least one of R'_2 or R'_8 is H.

4. The process of Claim 3 wherein a and c both represent double bonds.

5. The process of Claim 4 wherein the compound of formula (V) prepared is selected from the group wherein:

a. R'_2 is CH_3 and R'_8 is H; or

b. R'_2 is $CH_2OSi(Me)_2C_4H_9$ and R'_8 is H; or

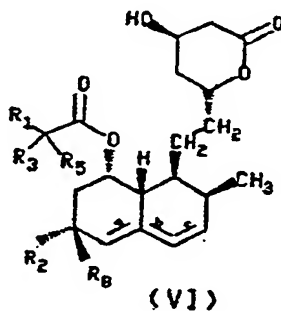
c. R'_2 is H and R'_8 is $CH_2OSi(Me)_2C_4H_9$.

6. A process of Claim 3 further comprising the treatment of a compound of structure (V) with

(C) acid in a polar solvent to remove the silyl protecting groups; then

(D) treatment with dilute base to hydrolyze the alkyl amide; then

(E) heating of the carboxylate salt of the lactone in a hydrocarbon solvent; to form a compound of structure (VI):



7. The process of Claim 6 wherein Step (C) the acid is hydrofluoric acid and the polar solvent is acetonitrile; and wherein Step (D) the dilute base is 2.0 N NaOH; and wherein Step (E) the carboxylate salt is heated at $100^\circ C$ in toluene.

8. The process of Claim 7 further comprising, after treatment with NaOH, contact with aqueous ammonia to form the ammonium salt of the lactone.

9. The process of Claim 8 wherein a and c both represent double bonds.

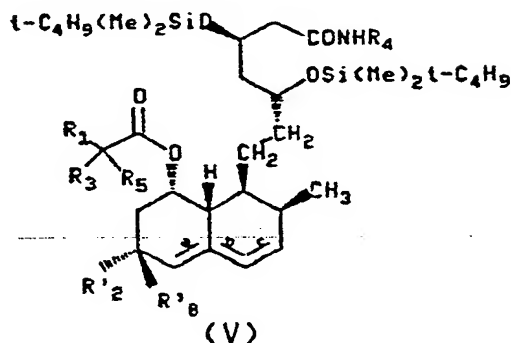
10. The process of Claim 9 wherein the compound prepared is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) 6(R)-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S),6(R)-dimethyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydronaphthyl-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one;

(b) 6(R)-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S)-methyl-6(R)-hydroxymethyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydronaphthyl-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one.

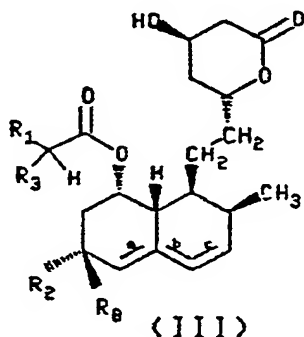
Revendications

1. Procédé de préparation d'un composé de formule développée (V):



dans laquelle:

- R₁ représente un groupe alkyle en C₁-C₅;
 R'₂ est un groupe choisi parmi H, CH₃, OSi(Me)₂t-C₄H₉ ou CH₂OSi(Me)₂t-C₄H₉;
 R₃ représente un groupe H ou alkyle en C₁-C₃;
 R₄ représente un groupe alkyle en C₃-C₆;
 R₅ représente un groupe alkyle en C₁-C₃; et
 R'₈ est un groupe choisi parmi H, OSi(Me)₂t-C₄H₉ ou CH₂OSi(Me)₂t-C₄H₉, à condition qu'au moins un des groupes R'₂ et R'₈ représente un atome d'hydrogène;
 a, b et c représentent chacun des liaisons simples, ou l'un parmi a, b et c, représente une double liaison, ou a et c représentent tous les deux des doubles liaisons;
 comprenant:
 (A) le traitement sous une atmosphère inerte d'un composé de formule développée (III):



dans laquelle:

- R₂ représente un groupe choisi parmi H, CH₃, -OH ou -CH₂OH;
 R₈ représente un groupe choisi parmi H ou -CH₂OH, à condition qu'au moins un des groupes R₂ et R₈ représente un atome d'hydrogène;
 avec une alkylamine R₄NH₂; puis la protection des groupes hydroxyle à l'aide de chlorure de tertbutyl-diméthylsilyle et d'imidazole; puis
 (B) le traitement avec un amidure de métal alcalin de formule M⁺N-R₆R₇, dans laquelle M⁺ représente un cation dérivé du sodium, du potassium ou du lithium, et R₆ et R₇ représentent indépendamment un groupe alkyle en C₁-C₃, ou R₆ et R₇ forment ensemble avec l'atome d'azote auquel ils sont liés, un hétérocycle à 5 ou 6 chaînons; puis une mise en contact avec R₅X, X représentant un atome de chlore, de brome ou d'iode.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'étape (B) est effectuée dans un solvant étheré, R₅ représente un groupe méthyle, et la mise en contact avec R₅X, est effectuée à une température de -30 à -10°C.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le solvant étheré, est le tétrahydrofuranne, l'alkyl-amine, la butylamine, l'amidure de métal alcalin, le pyrrolidure de lithium; R_1 représente un groupe éthyle, R_3 un groupe méthyle; et R_2 représente H, CH_3 ou $CH_2OSi(Me)_2t-C_4H_9$; R_8 représente H ou $CH_2OSi(Me)_2t-C_4H_9$; à condition qu'au moins l'un des groupes R_2 et R_8 , représente un atome d'hydrogène.

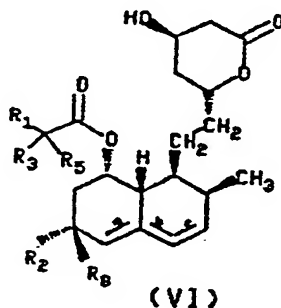
4. Procédé selon la revendication 3, dans lequel \underline{a} et \underline{c} représentent tous les deux des doubles liaisons.

5. Procédé selon la revendication 4, dans lequel le composé de formule (V) préparé, est choisi parmi le groupe dans lequel:

- a. R_2 représente CH_3 , et R_8 un atome d'hydrogène; ou
- b. R_2 représente $CH_2OSi(Me)_2t-C_4H_9$, et R_8 représente un atome d'hydrogène; ou
- c. R_2 représente un atome d'hydrogène, et R_8 un groupe $CH_2OSi(Me)_2t-C_4H_9$.

6. Procédé selon la revendication 3, comprenant en outre le traitement d'un composé de structure (V), avec:

- (C) un acide dans un solvant polaire afin d'éliminer les groupes silyl protecteurs; puis
- (D) le traitement avec une base diluée, afin d'hydrolyser l'alkyl amide; puis
- (E) le chauffage du carboxylate salifié dérivé de la lactone, dans un solvant hydrocarboné, afin de former un composé de structure (VI):



7. Procédé selon la revendication 6, dans l'étape (C) duquel l'acide est l'acide fluorhydrique, et le solvant polaire est l'acétonitrile; dans l'étape (D) duquel, la base diluée est NaOH 2,0 N; et dans l'étape (E) duquel, le carboxylate salifié, est chauffé à 100°C dans le toluène.

8. Procédé selon la revendication 7, comprenant en outre, après le traitement avec NaOH, la mise en contact avec de l'ammoniac aqueux afin de former le sel d'ammonium de la lactone.

9. Procédé selon la revendication 8, dans lequel \underline{a} et \underline{c} représentent tous les deux des doubles liaisons.

10. Procédé selon la revendication 9, dans lequel le composé préparé, est choisi parmi:

- (a) la 6R-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-diméthylbutyryloxy)2(S), 6(R)-diméthyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydronaphthyl-1(S)]éthyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tétrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one;
- (b) la 6R-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-diméthylbutyryloxy)2(S)-méthyl-6(R)-hydroxyméthyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydronaphthyl-1(S)]éthyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tétrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one.

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R₁ C₁₋₅-Alkyl ist;

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R₄ C₃₋₅-Alkyl 1st;

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(A) Behandeln einer Verbindung der Strukturformel (III) unter einer inerten Atmosphäre



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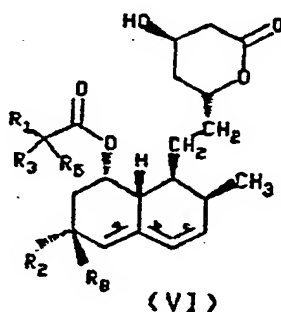
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4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 3, worin a und c beide Doppelbindungen darstellen.
5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, worin die hergestellte Verbindung der Formel (V) aus der Gruppe ausgewählt ist, worin

- a. R'_2 CH_3 ist und R'_8 H ist; oder
- b. $R'_2CH_2OSi(Me)_2-C_4H_9$ ist und R'_8 H ist; oder
- c. R'_2 H ist und R'_8 $CH_2OSi(Me)_2-C_4H_9$ ist.

6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 3, welches weiterhin die Behandlung einer Verbindung der Struktur (V) mit

- (C) Säure in einem polaren Lösungsmittel zur Entfernung der Silylschutzgruppen; danach
- (D) Behandeln mit verdünnter Base zum Hydrolisieren des Alkylamids; danach
- (E) Erhitzen des Carboxylatsalzes des Lactons in einem Kohlenwasserstofflösungsmittel unter Bildung einer Verbindung der Struktur (VI) umfaßt:



7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 6, worin in Schritt (C) die Säure Fluorwasserstoffsäure ist und das polare Lösungsmittel Acetonitril; und worin in Schritt (D) die verdünnte Base 2,0 N NaOH ist, und worin in Schritt (E) das Carboxylatsalz auf 100°C in Toluol erhitzt wird.

8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, welches weiterhin, nach der Behandlung mit NaOH, den Kontakt mit wäßrigem Ammoniak unter Bildung des Ammoniumsalzes des Lactons umfaßt.

9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 8, worin a und c beide Doppelbindungen darstellen.

10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9, worin die hergestellte Verbindung aus der aus
(a) 6(R)-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-Dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S)], 6(R)-dimethyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydronaphthyl-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-on;

(b) 6(R)-[2-[8(S)-(2,2-Dimethylbutyryloxy)-2(S)-methyl-6(R)-hydroxymethyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a(R)-hexahydronaphthyl-1(S)]ethyl]-4(R)-hydroxy-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-on bestehenden Gruppe ausgewählt ist.

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